

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 NEA-10 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

INT-08 OMB-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01

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O R 061831Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7331

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USEC BRUSSELS UNN

USNATO 3551

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 5669

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: U.S. "DISCONTENT" WITH EUROPE AND FRANCE IN THE
HEADLINES

SUMMARY: WHATEVER PARIS NEWSPAPER ONE READ WEDNESDAY MORNING
THERE WAS SCANT CHOICE BETWEEN AMERICAN "DISCONTENT" AND "IRRITATION"
OR SECRETARIAL "FURY" IN THE HEADLINES OF STORIES DETAILING
ALLEGED OFFICIAL U.S. REACTION TO THE EEC DECISION TO SEEK A
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MEETING ABOUT ENERGY BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND ARABS. MOST ACCOUNTS

DEALT BOTH WITH REMARKS BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN--GENERALLY SEEN AS ADDRESSED TO EUROPE GENERALLY-- AND WITH THOSE OF AN "UNIDENTIFIED" BUT "HIGH" AND "EXCELLENT" AMERICAN SOURCE WHO WAS QUOTED AS SPECIFICALLY CRITICAL OF FRANCE. NATURALLY, THESE ACCOUNTS LEFT NO DOUBT FOR READERS THAT LATTER SOURCE WAS IN FACT THE SECRETARY HIMSELF. CONTRASTING WITH ALL THIS WAS A LE MONDE STORY PREVIOUS EVENING FROM BRUSSELS, FEATURING APPARENT FACT THAT "WASHINGTON WILL NOT VETO A EUROPEAN-ARAB DIALOGUE".
END SUMMARY.

1. "KISSINGER FURIOUS WITH FRANCE", HEADLINED FRANCE-SOIR OVER STORY FROM ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, (DE SEGONZAC), WHO SAID SECRETARY IS ANGRY NOT TO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED BEFORE BRUSSELS DECISION TO SEEK TALKS WITH ARABS. SEGONZAC WONDERED IF "GREEN LIGHT" APPARENTLY GIVEN PREVIOUSLY BY SECRETARY FOR EURO-ARAB CONFERENCE COULD BE "SO EPHEMERAL", BUT QUOTED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN THAT U.S. HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTED, THAT U.S. HAD BEEN ADVISED OF DECISION ONLY AFTER IT HAD BEEN TAKEN, AND THAT EUROPEAN ACTION DID NOT TAKE ACCOUNT "OF DEGREE OF CONSULTATION WHICH SHOULD REASONABLY BE COUNTED ON AMONG FRIENDS". HOWEVER, SEGONZAC WROTE, "MR. VEST SEEMS TO FORGET THAT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, MEMBERS OF NATO, WERE NOT INFORMED, EITHER, ABOUT THE U.S. FORCES ALERT" DURING THE OCTOBER WAR.

2. QUOTING AN "EXCELLENT SOURCE", SEGONZAC INCLUDED OBSERVATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE ATTRIBUTED BY A FRENCH NEWS AGENCY REPORT TO AN UNIDENTIFIED SOURCE ABOARD SECRETARY'S RETURN FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON --THAT SECRETARY HAD COME TO REGRET HIS INITIATIVE FOR AN ATLANTIC CHARTER, WHICH HE HAD THOUGHT EUROPEANS WOULD APPROVE; THAT THIS PROPOSAL HAD BECOME THE PRETEXT FOR AN ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED "BY THOSE WHO WANTED TO CREATE A EUROPEAN ENTITY CLEARLY SEPARATE FROM THE U.S."; AND THAT HE WOULD NEVER HAVE ADVANCED THE IDEA HAD HE BEEN ABLE TO FORESEE THIS NEGATIVE REACTION.

3. SEGONZAC THEN NOTED THAT A "HIGH AMERICAN PERSONALITY" ABOARD THE SECRETARY'S PLANE WENT FURTHER, ACCUSING FRANCE NOT ONLY OF HAVING HINDERED ACHIEVEMENT OF DECLARATION CONCERNING ATLANTIC RELATIONS, BUT OF HAVING USED OCCASION TO UNLEASH ANTI-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN, AND OF BEING OBSTACLE TO ANY CREATIVE IDEA WHILE CONTRIBUTING NOTHING POSITIVE.

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4. ESSENTIALLY SAME VERSION WAS REPORTED TO FIGARO BY J. JACQUET FRANCILLON, WHOSE STORY'S HEADLINE SPOKE OF "VIOLENT" CRITICISM OF FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY BY SECRETARY. HE WAS "SO UNHAPPY", WROTE JACQUET-FRANCILLON, THAT HE AUTHORIZED HIS SPOKESMAN TO MAKE IT KNOWN "PUBLICLY AND WITHOUT EQUIVOCATION". WHILE SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT LAYS BLAME "WITHOUT NUANCE" ON ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS, SAID JACQUET-FRANCILLON, THERE IS FOR SECRETARY A BLACK

SHEEP -- FRANCE. ON RETURN TRIP TO WASHINGTON, "THE FATIGUE OF LONG TRIPS" PERHAPS MADE EVEN A "MAN OF STEEL" LIKE SECRETARY FORGET "DIPLOMATIC PRUDENCE". HE "OPENED HIS HEART" TO SEVERAL AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, CONCLUDED JACQUET-FRANCILLON, WHO QUOTED SECRETARY ALONG LINES OF PARAGRAPH THREE ABOVE.

5. OTHER PARIS NEWSPAPERS -- COMBAT, AURORE, AND LES ECHOS -- CONTRIBUTED HEADLINES ABOUT MR. KISSINGER'S "DISCONTENT", "BITTERNESS" OR "BAD HUMOR" AND RAN FACTUAL STORIES QUOTING DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AND RETURN-TRIP SOURCE REFERRED TO EARLIER.

6. GOULLIST PAPER LA NATION, SPECULATING IN HEADLINE THAT "MR. KISSINGER FINDS THE EUROPEANS TOO EUROPEAN", RECALLED THAT "FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, MR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN SAYING VERY FRANKLY THAT NOTHING CAN TAKE PLACE ANY LONGER BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA UNTIL THE EUROPEANS BEHAVE LIKE RESPONSIBLE ADULTS WHO DO NOT NEED AMERICAN PERMISSION TO TAKE WHATEVER INITIATIVES CORRESPOND TO EUROPEAN INTERESTS". DESPITE SCHEEL EXPLANATIONS TO SECRETARY ABOUT CHARACTER OF EURO-ARAB CONFERENCE -- LONG-TERM COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPE AND TWENTY ARAB NATIONS -- "MR. KISSINGER GOT MAD", SAID LA NATION. "HE IS AFRAID THAT THE EUROPEAN INITIATIVE WILL REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS (OF WASHINGTON COORDINATING COMMITTEE) IN FACT, HE HAS THE CALENDAR BACKWARD. IN ADOPTING THE FRENCH PROPOSAL VIS-A-VIS THE ARABS, THE NINE ONLY HONORED THE COMMITMENT MADE IN COPENHAGEN...TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE WASHINGTON .../... STONE

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAJ-01 NEA-10 AEC-11

AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01

INT-08 OMB-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/170 W

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O R 061831Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7332
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USEC BRUSSELS
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CONFERENCE."

7. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT FRANCE-SOIR'S DE SEGONZAC,
WINDING UP ARTICLE CITED EARLIER, ASKED WHETHER U.S. IRRITATION
WITH FRENCH "IS LEADING TO DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH PARIS"
-- AND CONCLUDED THIS IS UNLIKELY. IT WOULD DIVIDE EUROPEANS
INTO TWO BLOCS, HE SAID, FORCE SOME OF THEM, NOTABLY BONN, TO
CHOOSE BETWEEN EUROPE AND U.S., AND "THIS IS NOT HENRY KISSINGER'S
OBJECTIVE".
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8. ON EVENING OF MARCH 5, LE MONDE'S MAURICE DELARUE REPORTED
FROM BRUSSELS THAT "WASHINGTON WILL NOT VETO A EUROPEAN-ARAB
DIALOGUE". THIS, HE SAID, WAS INDICATED BY SECRETARY IN BRUSSELS,
WHERE HE WAS "QUESTIONED ABOUT THE DECISION A FEW HOURS EARLIER
BY THE NINE TO PROPOSE A FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE WITH 20
ARAB STATES AND SET UP EXTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN
COMMUNITY AND ARAB WORLD". SECRETARY, ACCORDING TO DELARUE,
REPLY THAT "AT THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, WE TOOK A
POSITION AGAINST BILATERAL OIL AGREEMENTS; THAT DOESN'T MEAN
WE WERE ASKING FOR A VETO OVER THE FULL SCALE". DELARUE REPORTED
SCHEEL AS INFORMING THE NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT MR.
KISSINGER WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE EUROPEAN-ARAB DIALOGUE. "I
THANK HIM WITH ALL MY HEART", JOBERT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE
INTERJECTED. WITH THIS OUT OF THE WAY, WROTE DELARUE,
JOBERT ADDED THAT HE SAW " NOTHING INCONVENIENT" IN SCHEEL'S
INFORMING SECRETARY OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED AMONG NINE SINCE THE
WASHINGTON MEETING. "THUS," DELARUE OBSERVED, "WE ARE IN FULL
RECONCILIATION, EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC, AT LEAST APPARENTLY."

9. THIS POINT WAS USED AS ONE OF DEPARTURE BY LE MONDE IN
EDITORIAL FOR MARCH 7 ISSUE. MONDAY'S PARALLEL TALKS IN

BRUSSELS, IT SAID, CERTAINLY HAD ENDED "WITH EMBRACES", WITH SECRETARY POINTING TO EUROPEAN UNDERSTANDING FOR AMERICAN POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST AND DECLARING THAT HE WOULD NOT USE AN AMERICAN "VETO" ON EUROPEAN-ARAB MATTERS. BUT, EDITORIAL ADDED, THIS WAS "FOR THE GALLERY". IN FRONT OF JOURNALISTS ON HIS RETURN FLIGHT, EDITORIAL SAID, SECRETARY "UNBURDENED HIMSELF OFF-THE-RECORD, THAT IS, WITHOUT HIS REMARKS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY NAME". BUT IT WAS INDEED THE SECRETARY HIMSELF, SAID LE MONDE, WHO MADE JUDGMENTS ABOUT FRENCH POLICY "EXCESSIVE IN THEIR FORMULATION BUT AT BOTTOM CORRECT". IT IS THE GOF, PAPER SAID, AND IT ALONE -- AS SECRETARY SAID -- WHICH HAS BEEN THE OBSTACLE FOR ALMOST A YEAR TO THE NEW 'ATLANTIC CHARTER' "WITH WHICH MR. KISSINGER WISHES TO ENCLOSE THE WEST".

10. PAPER THOUGHT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S "REPROACHES" TUESDAY TO COMMUNITY ARE "EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT SINCE THEY REVEAL CLEARLY WHAT MR. KISSINGER MEANS BY HIS NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER... THE U.S., HE SAID, WAS NOT CONSULTED BY THE COMMUNITY ABOUT ITS UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFER OF COOPERATION WITH ARAB WORLD, AND ONLY LEARNED OF IT AFTER IT HAD BEEN MADE PUBLIC. IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE THE AMERICAN SPOKESMAN. HAD HE NOT HEARD OF THE VISIT OF ARAB REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT? WAS HE NOT INFORMED ABOUT WHAT FOLLOWED? ABOVE ALL, HE IS IN FLAGRANT CONTRADICTION WITH ... SCHEEL, WHO TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES AND JOURNALISTS THAT HE HAD CONSULTED AT LENGTH WITH MR. KISSINGER AND OBTAINED HIS 'GREEN LIGHT'... MR. SCHEEL RECEIVED THE SECRETARY SUNDAY IN BONN AND TALKED LATE INTO THE NIGHT WITH HIM. MONDAY IN BRUSSELS, AFTER THE AGREEMENT OF THE NINE, MR. SCHEEL AGAIN TALKED WITH MR. KISSINGER. WHAT MORE DOES THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WANT?"

11. "HE SAID IT IN HIS NOVEMBER 12 SPEECH IN LONDON", LE MONDE CONTINUED, "AND FOR THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO UNDERSTAND, THE AMERICAN SPOKESMAN -- WITH A CLARITY SELDOM MASKED BY STYLE -- HAS JUST REPEATED IT. 'IT IS A QUESTION OF WHETHER THE EUROPEAN GROUP SPEAKS AND ACTS BASED ON A DEGREE OF CONSULTATION ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO EXPECT AMONG FRIENDS'. IN CLEAR TERMS: EUROPE MUST SPEAK AND ACT ONLY WITH THE ASSENT OF WASHINGTON."

12. "TO RESPOND TO SUCH A DEMAND", CONCLUDED LE MONDE, "TWO ATTITUDES ARE POSSIBLE. ONE CAN SAY 'NO', LIKE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AT THE RISK OF INCURRING UNIVERSAL BLAME. ONE CAN SAY 'YES' TO EVERYBODY -- TO WASHINGTON, TO PARIS, TO BRUSSELS -- AND NO WHAT ONE WANTS. AT HEART, THIS IS THE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY MOST OF FRANCE'S PARTNERS, AND IT IS QUITE DEFENSIBLE... IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY MR. KISSINGER WANTS THE EUROPEANS

TO CHOOSE EXPRESSLY BETWEEN AN 'AMERICAN' EUROPE AND A EUROPE
MORE OR LESS 'EUROPEAN' FROM WHICH THE U.S. HAS NOTHING TO
FEAR."

13. JOBERT WAS QUOTED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
THAT NEGATIVE REACTION IN SOME QUARTERS TO PROPOSED EURO-
ARAB MEETING WAS DUE TO "AN INEXACT ANALYSIS OF REALITY. THE
JOINT PREPARATION BY EUROPEANS OF THIS IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL MEETING WAS NOT M
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, NEWSPAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS05669
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740364/aaaachiz.tel
Line Count: 281
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <17 JUL 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. "DISCONTENT" WITH EUROPE AND FRANCE IN THE HEADLINES
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, FR, US, XT, XF, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005